



Media Advisory: Colorado Air Force Reservists to take part in annual MAFFS training

Release Number: 010412

4/18/2012 - **PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** -- Media are invited to cover Air Force Reserve Airmen from the 302nd Airlift Wing as they conduct their annual Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) training for certification Monday, April 23 at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The U.S. Forest Service and the Air Force Reserve will hold its annual air tanker MAFFS training April 20 through 24 at Peterson AFB with flight operations out of both Peterson AFB and Pueblo Air Tanker Base. The MAFFS training, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and hosted by the 302nd Airlift Wing will include both classroom and flight certification for military flight crews, civilian lead plane pilots and various support personnel.



GOWEN FIELD, Idaho -- A 302nd Air Expeditionary Group Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System-equipped C-130 flies over the plains of Idaho to perform an air drop on a simulated fire. From May 2 through May 6 of 2011 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members completed their annual initial and re-currency certification required by the U.S. Forest Service. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner)

During the annual training and re-certification, the MAFFS training aircrews will drop only potable water on remote target sites in the Pike-San Isabel National Forest and military ranges. Rural residents may see low flying C-130 aircraft during the day.

While at Peterson AFB, media will receive MAFFS briefings from both U.S. Forest Service representatives and the 302nd Airlift Wing's chief of aerial firefighting, Lt. Col. David Condit. In addition, media will have the opportunity to view and record pit 'reloading' operations, view ground and air operations as well as interview certifying Air Force Reservists from the 302nd AW. An Air Force Reserve MAFFS equipped C-130 is scheduled to perform a water drop in an area immediately off of the flightline at Peterson AFB during Monday's media day. (Additional video footage and digital photos of previous MAFFS drops are available on the Defense Video Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS) <http://www.dvidshub.net/>)

C-130s equipped with the slide-in U.S. Forest Service MAFFS units can drop up to three thousand gallons of retardant or water to aid in the suppression of wildfires. These trained military personnel along with the MAFFS equipment are activated to supplement the civilian air tanker program during periods of high wildfire activity throughout the nation. The 302nd Airlift Wing MAFFS equipped C-130s, aircrew and support personnel were deployed to Texas and New Mexico during the 2011 season. There are eight MAFFS units available for use with military C-130 aircraft.

The military authority for the MAFFS program was created in the early 1970's to support wildland firefighting through an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. Today, the military aircraft are requested by the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) and activated through the U.S. Northern Command, based on an agreement with the Department of Defense.

IMPORTANT: For more information and to obtain the necessary Public Affairs escort required for access to Peterson Air Force Base for MAFFS Media Day, contact the 302nd AW Public Affairs office at (719) 556-4117 before close of business, Friday, April 20.